



**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE BRANCH  
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY  
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS  
1701 NIMBUS ROAD  
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**Lab Number P-2881  
Necropsy N15-146  
CAHFS Number D1502857**

**Date of loss: January 27, 2015  
Sample: Virginia opossum  
*Didelphis virginiana*  
Listing status: None**

**To: Chad Godoy  
Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner**

**Report Date: April 27, 2015**

**Remarks**

Opossum with anticoagulant rodenticide detection.

**Background**

On January 27, 2015, an opossum was found in a driveway in Martinez with hard feces stuck to it. It was brought into Lindsay Wildlife Hospital where it was observed to be emaciated with white mucous membranes, sunken eyes, and a dark discharge from its nose. It was euthanized. It was submitted to CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory because to determine if rodenticide toxicosis was responsible for the loss.

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**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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The opossum was necropsied at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis on March 3, 2015. The opossum was found to be an adult female with scant fat reserves. Numerous flat masses were observed in the lungs. Histologically, these masses appeared to be carcinoma but this was thought to be an incidental finding. Numerous nematodes were observed in the stomach. The test for rabies was negative. The test for the metabolite of bromethalin was negative. The liver was found to contain one anticoagulant rodenticide: 0.061 ppm bromadiolone. Coagulopathy was not observed in this animal so the cause of death does not appear to be anticoagulant toxicosis.

**WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY**

*Stella McMillin*

**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve C. Torres".

**Steve Torres, Program Manager,  
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc:**

**Rich Bireley  
DPR Registration**

**Dr. Debbie Daniels  
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